



Help from above 12-13

The Shaw SPIRIT

Weekend Weather

Saturday
Partly cloudy
High 88, Low 64

Sunday
Partly cloudy
High 86, Low 63

Courtesy of the 20th Operations Support Squadron Weather flight

June 17, 2005

Serving Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., home of the F-16CJ+

Vol. 11, No. 24

Newsline

Changes of command

The 609th Air Communications Squadron change of command is set for Thursday at 11 a.m. in Hangar 1614. Col. John Hayes will relinquish command to Col. Marty Edmonds.

The 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron change of command is set for June 24 at 9 a.m. in the vehicle bay of the 682nd ASOS. Lt. Col. Seth Bretscher will relinquish command to Lt. Col. Brian Pierson.

Fellowship lunch

A Christian Fellowship Luncheon is set for Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the conference center. Cost is \$3. R.S.V.P. by noon Tuesday to 895-1408/1106.

Closure

The Traffic Management Office will close from noon to 2:30 p.m. today and from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday. For emergency assistance, call 491-4889.

Relocation

The Managed Care office and TRI-CARE service center are relocating to Bldg. 1051 (formerly Life Skills) June 24. Full operations will resume June 27.

Disposition of effects

Any persons having claims against the estate of Airman 1st Class Justin Morrow, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, should call 1st Lt. Brian Wear at 895-5279 or 499-1791.

Goal in sight

The 20th Fighter Wing is nearing its goal of zero DUIs for 60 days. We only have 20 DUI-free days to go until a wing down day! Keep looking out for your wingmen.

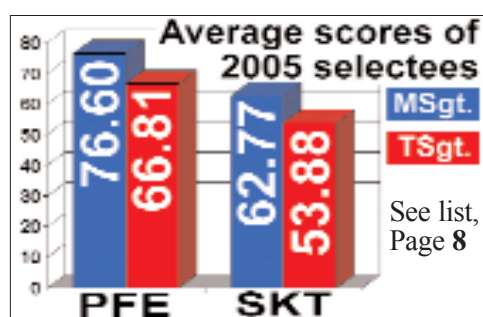
Last DUI: 20th CMS

2005 total: 8

This time last year: 25

Current as of Thursday

Airmen Against Drunk Driving offers free, confidential rides for intoxicated base members. For a ride, call 983-9722. AADD saves last week: 12



Any challenge, any time, anywhere



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

Staff Sgt. Todd Ross (right) and Airman First Class Allan Habel, 79th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chiefs, inspect an F-16-CJ+ engine during a Phase 1 operational readiness exercise Wednesday.

New sexual assault reporting policy

Confidentiality now an option in military cases

By Senior Airman Susan Penning
Editor

A new confidential reporting option for sexual assault was implemented Tuesday across the Department of Defense.

Military members who are victims of sexual assault can now report allegations confidentially to specified personnel without automatically triggering an investigation.

The new option, called restrictive reporting, was implemented after numerous assessments were conducted and the Defense Department recognized some significant barriers which deter some victims from reporting sexual assaults. The most common ones were:

- Lack of privacy/confidentiality
- Stigma, shame, fear
- Fear of being reduced in the eyes of a commander or colleagues
- Fear of disciplinary action due to a vic-

tim's personal misconduct

- Fear of re-victimization
- Fear of operational impacts on training, security clearances and overseas deployment
- Fear of adverse impacts on the individual's unit or mission accomplishment

In alignment with the new restrictive reporting option, the Air Force has established its own sexual assault prevention and response programs consistent with DOD policies and procedures. Sexual assault response coordinators have been designated at each major command and at each installation. MAJCOM SARCS report directly to the MAJCOM vice commander and installation SARCS report directly to the installation vice commander.

Shaw's SARC is Cynthia Briggs and can be reached at 895-SARC(7272).

SARCS receive training in how to appropriately respond to victims of sexual trauma, whether the assault occurred within a few days of reporting or years earlier.

"When a victim comes to me, I first establish whether he or she wants restricted or unrestricted reporting. Restricted reporting is 100 percent confidential if the victim so chooses. Unrestricted reporting

means the victim agrees to allow an investigation to be opened," said Mrs. Briggs. "Our goal is to provide help by offering access to medical care, counseling and victim advocates, but it's ultimately up to the victim what the next step is."

In addition to the new reporting option, Air Force officials are also working on a prevention program that includes adding training to all levels of professional military education.

"Our significant goal is prevention," said Charlene Bradley, the Air Force's Sexual Assault Task Force leader. "We're going to do everything we can to prevent sexual assaults from happening through understanding the crime and the consequences, emphasizing respect and our core values in our training. But if it happens, we intend to make sure the victim gets the care (he or she needs) to heal."

Sexual assault is an umbrella term that includes allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, indecent assault or attempts to commit any of these offenses. Only allegations of sexual assault may be made under the restricted reporting action. (Some information courtesy of Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez, Air Force Print News.)

Anthrax vaccine encouraged, but voluntary

By Mrs. Tarsha Storey
Correspondent

Air Force officials have resumed use of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program on a voluntary basis under an emergency-use authorization.

The anthrax vaccine is encouraged, but not mandated, for all military personnel, emergency-essential civilians and mission-essential contractors assigned for more than 15 consecutive days to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility or the Korean peninsula. Other units with special or bio-defensive missions are also eligible to receive the vaccine.

The vaccine was originally placed on hold because the Food and Drug Administration did not hold the required 90-day public comment period to certify the vaccine will prevent persons from contracting anthrax through inhalation, according to information from the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program web site.

"The emergency use authorization was sought by the Department of Defense as anthrax remains a potential threat to our forces," said Brig. Gen. Russell Kilpatrick, Air Combat Command command surgeon.

In January, the FDA issued the emergency-use authorization which gave all the services the ability to vaccinate a select group of the force when three stipulations are met. First, 100 percent of the base population is to be educated and informed regarding the vaccine. Second, the vaccine is only offered to those deploying or PCSing to CENTCOM or Korea (including active-duty, contractors, civilians and their dependents). Third, members must receive the vaccine voluntarily, and no punitive action will be pursued if the vaccine is declined. It will also not affect their deployment status, said Capt. Cynthia Daniels, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron.

Members who choose not to vaccinate but come in contact with anthrax face the possibility of contracting it due to the hardiness of anthrax spores. The spores are able

to withstand such conditions as ultraviolet light, gamma radiation, and bleach and can live for up to 50 years in a viable state, said Capt. Daniels.

The safety of the vaccination is not in question and the vaccine is highly recommended, said Lt. Col. Abigail Palmer, 20th Medical Operations Squadron.

"Safety is not an issue. The FDA and top scientists in the United States have deemed (the) anthrax vaccine safe and (as) the only way to prevent anthrax disease. Those who are unvaccinated are at great risk of disease and may endanger their unit and the mission. The only way to protect our forces is to vaccinate," said Capt. Daniels.

Those who missed the initial anthrax briefings must attend one Tuesday. They will be held on the hour from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. at the base theater.

For more information, call Capt. Daniels at 895-6193 or visit www.anthrax.mil.

(Some information courtesy of Senior Airman Amy Robinson, Air Combat Command Public Affairs)

Housing Survey 2005



Photo by Tarsha Storey

Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander, completes the Family Housing Satisfaction Survey Tuesday.

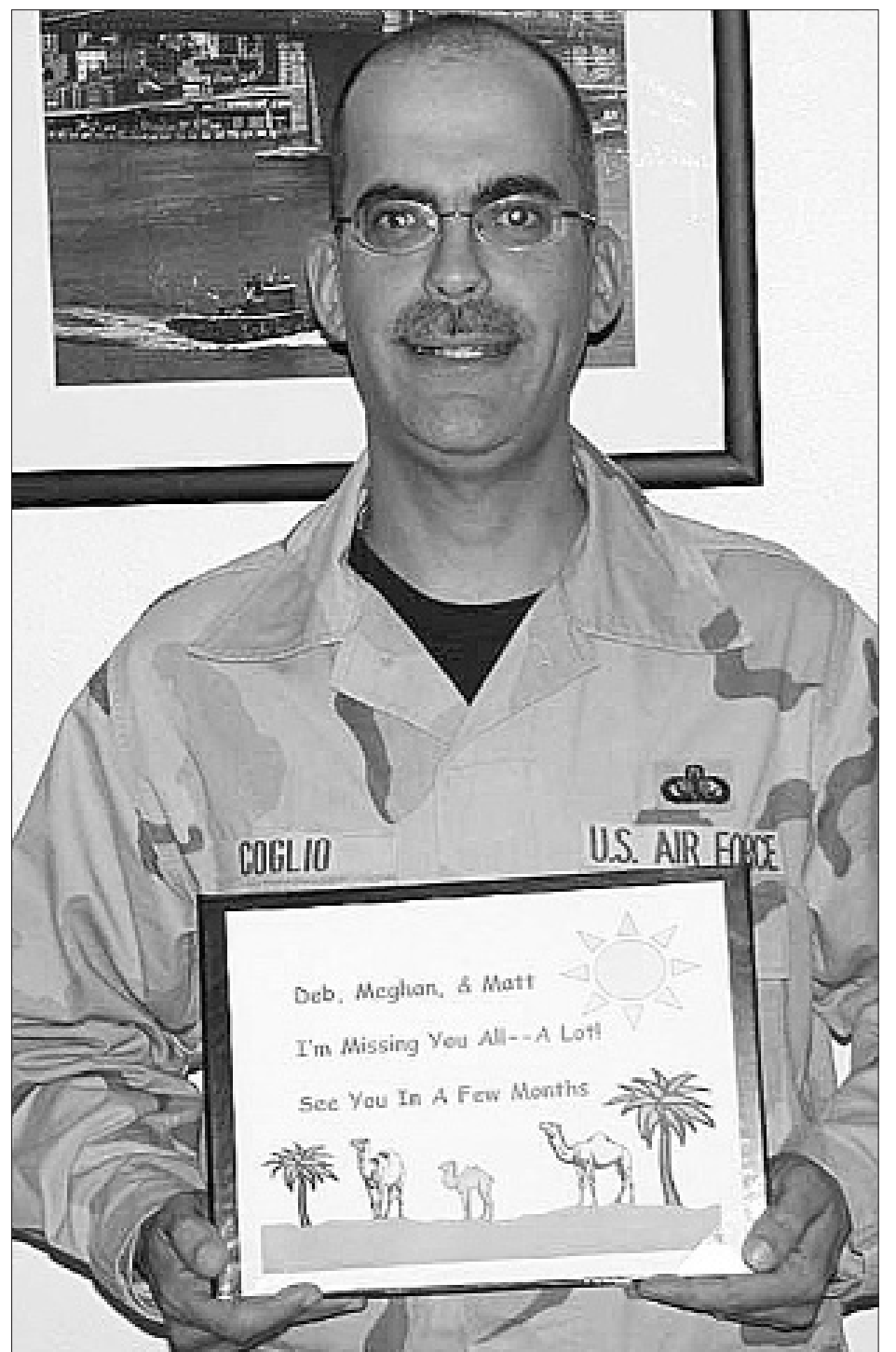
The 20th Civil Engineer Squadron's Housing Flight is requesting all military family housing residents fill out one Family Housing Resident Satisfaction Survey per household. The form was sent with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to each residence recently.

The results will be tabulated by neighborhood and analyzed by an independent consulting firm. All responses are completely confidential and will directly affect the quality of future Air Force housing.

The survey will help identify areas that need improvement or strengthen successful areas, according to Col. Richard Howell, Air Force Deputy Civil Engineer.

Surveys should be postmarked no later than 14 days after receipt. For more information, call the housing office at 895-2424.

Deployed dad



Courtesy photo

Senior Master Sgt. Albert Coglio, U.S. Central Command Air Forces, tells his family he is thinking of them this Father's Day while he is deployed to the area of responsibility.

Briefly ...

Free voice mail to AOR

Deployed Air Force personnel can receive voice mails from family and friends now through July 8. The new voice mail system works by callers dialing a toll-free number and entering the deployed member's special code. They can place up to three three-minute voice mails per day. Members can access their GIMail account and download voice mails on any Windows computer. Members must have a valid Air Force Crossroads and GIMail account. Visit www.GIMail.af.mil to register for one. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 895-1252. (Information from FSC.)

Spotting drunk drivers

They have trouble staying in the right position in their lane of traffic. Look for:

- weaving
- swerving
- straddling the lines that mark lanes
- turning with too wide a radius
- drifting around within their lane
- almost hitting something

They don't brake and accelerate normally. They stop too far away or too close to things. They brake in a jerky manner. They speed up or slow down for no apparent reason. They drive more than 10 mph under the speed limit.

They don't pay attention and lost situational awareness. Look for:

- driving in the wrong lane or the wrong way on a one-way street
- slow response to traffic signals or markings
- stopping for no apparent reason
- driving without headlights at night
- failing to signal, or signaling and then not following through

They show poor judgment by:

- following too closely
- changing lanes improperly or dangerously
- making illegal or improper turns
- driving on something other than the street
- showing unusual behavior (Information from 20th Fighter Wing Safety Office.)

Financial tip

Impulse Buying

If you tend to shop and purchase items impulsively for no reason, perhaps you should start thinking harder about what you are about to purchase before you buy it. It's hard to say "No" to ourselves; before you purchase those clothes or other merchandise, ask yourself if you really need them. If not, put them back.

Try to avoid impulse buying by only shopping when you have a need and always use a shopping list. If you use a list, you will be less likely to give in to unplanned spending.

For more information call 895-1252. (Information from the FSC.)



Courtesy photo

Honoring Flag Day

Tech. Sgt. Stephen Goshorn, 158th Fighter Wing Detachment 1 at Shaw, sings the National Anthem Tuesday prior to a Myrtle Beach Pelicans baseball game. Sgt. Goshorn participated to commemorate Flag Day.

Flag Day history

The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the American flag is believed to have first originated in 1885.

At that time, a Wisconsin school-teacher arranged for pupils to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday.'

In numerous magazines and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, the teacher continued to

enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14 as 'Flag Birthday,' or 'Flag Day.'

Over time, other schools and organizations, including the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, began to hold yearly Flag Day commemorative events.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that, on June 14, the American flag be displayed on all public buildings. Later, the Illinois organization known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day -- the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 -- was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow

Wilson on May 30, 1916.

While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after President Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Harry Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day. (Information from usflag.org.)

According to legend, in 1776, George Washington commissioned Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross to create a flag for the new nation. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.



Shaw Blotter

(Editor's note: The blotter includes incidents from the 20th Security Forces Squadron reports. The following information is intended to increase awareness of resource protection and safety concerns)

■ An Airman and his spouse were involved in a verbal altercation at their base housing residence.

■ An Airman reported his guitar stolen from the Dorm 418 parking lot.

■ Three Airmen were involved in a verbal altercation in the vicinity of the dorms.

■ An Airman reported her lawn mower stolen from her base housing residence.

■ An Airman was arrested off base for malicious injury to property.

■ Security Forces responded to eight incidents/accidents involving POVs and GOVs.

■ There were 13 traffic tickets issued during the week.

■ In case of emergency, call 911.

Direct routine questions and non-emergency concerns to 20th SFS personnel at the 24-hour desk by calling 895-3670.

If you have information about any crime, listed here or otherwise, call the 20th Security Forces Investigations section at 895-3600.



SPiRiT TRIVIA

Question: What reporting option do military victims of sexual assault now have?

Answer to last week's question:

The two most common ticks that pose health problems to South Carolina residents are the Lone Star Tick and American Dog Tick.

Last week's winner: Senior Airman Matthew Ciampa, 28th Operational Weather Squadron

The first person to e-mail the correct answer to *The Shaw Spirit* at spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil will receive a free t-shirt.

The Shaw Black Heritage Committee invites you to...

The oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

Juneteenth
2005



“A Celebration of Freedom”

Saturday at Dillon Park in Sumter from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call Mattie Dowdy at 895-1443.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joel Mease

Dorm cleanup

Airman 1st Class Jared Oliver, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron, along with more than 30 members of Rising Four, a club for E-4s and below, help clean up dorms over the weekend recently. “If there are Airmen who look out for others, then others will follow,” said Airman 1st Class Jerry Pease, 55th Aircraft Maintenance Unit.

Shaw's master sergeant promotions

Congratulations to the following technical sergeants who were selected for promotion to the rank of master sergeant:
Ruben Alvizures Jr., 20th Communications Squadron; **Glenn Anderson**, 31st Intelligence Squadron; **Jeffrey Ashcraft**, 20th CS; **Dawson Baker**, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; **Christopher Benjamin**, 20th Services Squadron; **Barbara Bonnette**, 20th Contracting Squadron; **Steven Borton**, 9th Air Force; **Kenneth Brown**, 338th Training Squadron; **Robert Bryant**, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Daniel Buck**, 20th Security Forces Squadron; **James Calhoun**, 609th Air Support Squadron; **Thomas Canning**, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron; **Christina Carreras**, 31st IS; **Timothy Carroll**, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Tiffany Carter**, 31st IS; **Louis Cedillo**, 20th CS; **Scott Chaney**, 20th CMS; **Dean Childs**, 20th Maintenance Group; **Richard Cleveland**, 20th EMS; **Steven Cooker**, 20th CES; **David Cox**, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **Nisa Crawley**, 20th MXG; **Sonya Davis**, 20th Medical Operations Squadron; **Carl Dewitt**, 609th Air Communications Squadron; **Mark Duda**, 609th ACOMS; **Michael Dugas**, 20th EMS; **Daniel Duguay**, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron; **Jeffery Dunigon**, 20th CS; **Lena English**, 20th AMXS; **William Epperson**, 20th AMXS; **James Eubank**, 20th AMXS; **Charles Farley**, 372nd Training Squadron; **Kenneth Gary**, 609th Air Support Squadron; **Carlton Green**, 9th Information Warfare

Flight; **Eric Green**, 609th ASUS; **Douglas Grimm**, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron; **Dessery Grubbs**, 338th Training Squadron; **Michael Harmon**, 20th CES; **Theodore Harrell**, 337th Recruiting Squadron; **Gena Harris**, 20th CMS; **Brent Harrison**, 338th TRS; **Carlton Hatfield**, 20th Operations Support Squadron; **Thomas Hearl**, 20th EMS; **Robert Hildalgo**, 31st IS; **Michael Hill**, 609th ASUS; **David Hitchens**, 20th SVS; **Carl Hix**, 20th CES; **Donald Howard**, 9th AF; **Kenneth Howard**, 20th EMS; **Anthony Jackson**, 337th RCS; **Donald Johnson**, 609th Air Operations Group; **Timothy Johnson**, 20th MXG; **Brian Jones**, 20th OSS; **George Jones III**, 20th AMXS; **Kevin Jones**, 20th LRS; **James Kaster**, 20th CS; **Chet Kelley**, 28th Operational Weather Squadron; **Richard Kelso Jr.**, 20th CS; **Richard Lane**, 20th LRS; **James Lanier**, 336th Training Squadron; **Lionel Laza**, 609th ASUS; **Randy Leblanc**, 31st IS; **Steven Lett**, 337th RCS; **Sandra Lewis**, 338th TRS; **Brent Lindstrom**, 9th AF; **Robert Lloyd III**, 28th OWS; **David Luoma**, 20th LRS; **Jeffrey Makis**, 20th LRS; **Jamie Martin**, 20th LRS; **Tyrone Martin**, 20th EMS; **Kevin Maynard**, 20th AMXS; **Elden McBride**, 20th AMXS; **Jeffery McClain**, 20th Comptroller Squadron; **Katrina McIntosh**, 20th CS; **David McMillan**, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron; **Johnny McQuaig**, 31st IS; **David Mendez**, 9th IWF; **Michael Merritt**, 609th Combat Operations Squadron; **Annie Montgomery**, 20th CS; **Bruce Moser**, 28th OWS; **Francis Myers II**,

20th Fighter Wing; **Donnie Northrup**, 609th ACOMS; **Eric Novoa**, 20th CMS; **Albert Orr**, 372nd TRS; **Kenneth Orr**, 20th CMS; **Robbie Padgett**, 337th RCS; **John Pinksaw**, 20th AMXS; **Robert Powers**, 20th EMS; **Bryan Pullin**, 20th AMXS; **Christopher Reed**, 609th Air Operations Group; **Douglas Reichert**, 20th AMXS; **Allen Reisigl Jr.**, 20th EMS; **Danny Richardson**, 20th EMS; **Steffanie Riseden**, 9th AF; **Robert Robertson**, 609th ACOMS; **Gregory Rogers**, 20th CMS; **Arni Rohan**, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron; **Loren Rose**, 609th ASUS; **Jeffrey Roudebush**, 337th RCS; **Donese Scott**, 9th AF; **Ernest Scott Jr.**, 20th CES; **James Shad**, 20th OSS; **John Sherman**, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; **Scotti Smith** 609th ASUS; **Robert Speed**, 20th FW; **Jeffrey Steere**, 609th ASUS; **Julee Stevens**, 20th ADOS; **Shane Strimpfel**, 20th CMS; **Joseph Sullivan**, 337th RCS; **Shawn Sundseth**, 609th ACOMS; **Donald Swensen**, 20th EMS; **Paul Teff**, Headquarters Weather Agency; **Jeffrey Tiner**, 20th AMXS; **Philip Turner**, 28th OWS; **Mario Viray**, 28th OWS; **Jillian Walker**, 20th EMS; **Erik Wargaman**, 28th OWS; **Walter Weatherford**, 20th CS; **Richard Wells**, 28th OWS; **Thomas Wenger** 28th OWS; **John Whatley**, 31st IS; **Timothy Whitt**, 20th EMS; **Scott Williams**, 20th CES; **Melvin Wilson**, 20th AMXS; **Robert Worley**, 9th AF; **James Worstell**, 337th RCS; **Phyllis Wright**, 20th CPTS; **John Yanick Jr.**, 20th CMS; **Noel York**, 20th FW

Shaw's new technical sergeant promotions

Congratulations to the following staff sergeants selected for promotion to the rank of technical sergeant:
Joseph Allen, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron; **David Allred**, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; **Jon Ammon**, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron; **Gregory Bandelow**, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron; **Kendall Beasley**, 609th Air Intelligence Squadron; **William Benak**, 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; **Wendy Berry**, 337th Recruiting Squadron; **Timur Blakeney**, 20th CMS; **Cheryl Blanding**, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron; **Steven Brightwell**, 20th CMS; **Christopher Broussard**, 337th RCS; **Jody Brown**, 20th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron; **Lacey Brown**, 20th Medical Operations Squadron; **Timothy Carriger**, 20th AMXS; **Steven Caselli**, 20th LRS; **Michael Chandlee**, 20th Maintenance Operations Squadron; **Justin Christensen**, 20th CMS; **George Clemons**, 20th AMXS; **David Cleveland**, 20th Maintenance Group; **John Coleman**, 20th MXG; **Melinda Conner**, 20th Operations Support Squadron; **Keith Cooper**, 20th AMXS; **Jennifer Crerar**, 20th Medical Support Squadron; **Charles Crowder**, 20th AMXS; **Robert Currier**, 20th Medical Operations Squadron; **Kevin Darrow**, 20th AMXS; **Andrew Davis**, 20th AMXS; **Becky Davis**, 20th CMS; **Daniel Davis**, 20th CMS; **Rebecca Dawson**, 55th Fighter Squadron; **Robert Denton**, 338th Training Squadron; **Ronald Dohmann**, 20th AMXS; **Kellie Dumire**, 20th Communications Squadron; **Tami Estep**, 20th Medical Support Squadron; **Aaron Ethridge**, 20th CS; **James Eubanks**, 338th Training Squadron; **Joshua Evans**, 337th RCS; **Robert Facer II**, 609th Air Intelligence Group; **Steven Fadden**, 609th Air Communications Squadron; **Antoinette Fitts**, 79th Fighter Squadron; **Latonya Franklin**, 20th Fighter Wing; **Eric Gebhardt**,

609th Combat Operations Squadron; **Cornelius Gilmore**, 20th CES; **Christopher Gradel**, 609th ACOMS; **Darnell Griffin**, 20th EMS; **Gary Hall**, 609th AIS; **Contina Harmon**, 20th OSS; **Jerome Harmon**, 20th OSS; **Anthony Harper**, 20th CMS; **Felice Haynes**, 337th RCS; **Krista Herzog**, 337th RCS; **Craig Hicks**, 20th CMS; **Jackie Highlander**, 20th LRS; **William Holliday**, 31st Intelligence Squadron; **Albert Hughes**, 20th FW; **Stanley Hull**, 609th AIS; **Arthur James**, 20th CMS; **Chad James**, 609th ACOMS; **Michael Jensen**, 20th AMXS; **Gregory Johnson**, 20th EMS; **Nicky Jolly**, 20th OSS; **Dawn Jones**, 9th Air Force; **Duane Jones**, 20th CES; **Jody Jones**, 20th AMXS; **Martin Jones**, 20th CES; **Sam Jones**, 20th MOS; **Pierre Julien**, 20th AMXS; **Christopher Jurca**, 609th ACOMS; **Charmaine Kelley**, 336th Training Squadron; **Jeremie Kester**, 20th EMS; **Damien Larche**, 20th Security Forces Squadron; **Seth Lash**, 20th SFS; **Justin Lawson**, 20th CMS; **Stephen Leyh**, 609th ACOMS; **Clayton London**, 31st IS; **Jonathan Mackey**, 20th CMS; **Phyllis Malloy**, 609th AIS; **Charlene Mangum**, 20th FW; **David Mangus II**, 20th CES; **James Martin**, 31st IS; **Russell Maxwell**, 20th MOS; **Corey McClanahan**, 338th TRS; **Daniel McGraw**, 20th EMS; **Mark McLaughlin**, 20th CES; **Teresa Medlock**, 338th TRS; **Frederico Melendez**, 20th ADOS; **Garry Miles Jr.**, 20th LRS; **Christy Milligan**, 20th CMS; **Melissa Moller**, 609th ACOMS; **Jeffery Moody**, 79th Fighter Squadron; **Patricia Morehouse**, 79th FS; **Adam Mulholland**, 338th TRS; **Gregory Mullinax**, 609th ACOMS; **Arnold Munroe Jr.**, 20th EMS; **Teenecia Murray**, 31st IS; **Horace Myers II**, 609th AIS; **Chestnut Myrick**, 20th Medical Operations Squadron; **Joshua Newton**, 31st IS; **Derek Odom**, 20th MDOS; **Paul Oglesby**, 20th MOS; **Jamey Olsen**, 609th ACOMS;

Sameka Owens, 20th OSS; **Terrence Packey**, 20th CMS; **Robert Parent**, 337th RCS; **Lawanda Parker**, 20th Mission Support Squadron; **Greg Pierce**, 20th EMS; **Jessie Plunkett**, 20th EMS; **Richard Pouliot**, 20th EMS; **Daniel Poulos Jr.**, 20th CMS; **Bradley Rayburn**, 20th LRS; **Richard Reder**, 15th Air Support Operations; **Joseph Rehby**, 20th EMS; **Kenneth Reynolds**, 20th AMXS; **Andrew Robinson**, 28th OWS; **Jesus Roblesde**, 337th RCS; **Todd Rohlfing**, 20th EMS; **Todd Ross**, 20th AMXS; **James Russell Jr.**, 31st IS; **Arthur Sawyer**, 20th SFS; **Steven Sayles**, 20th AMXS; **Laurence Schenk**, 20th AMXS; **Mikal Schwark**, 20th AMXS; **Brian Scoggins**, 20th CS; **Kelvin Seals**, 20th SFS; **Phillip Seibert**, 20th CMS; **Micharl Shick**, 20th LRS; **Aaron Smith**, 20th EMS; **John Smith**, 20th LRS; **John Smith**, 20th AMXS; **Robin Smith**, 682nd Air Support Operations Squadron; **Wilbert Smith Jr.**, 20th MXG; **Jack Speelman II**, 20th AMXS; **Kimberlie Spires**, 609th COS; **Darrin Starr**, 20th EMS; **Joseph Stewart**, 682nd ASOS; **Michael Stewart**, 20th MXG; **Christopher Strode**, 20th EMS; **Jamey Sykes**, 20th AMXS; **Jamie Thomas**, 20th CS; **Lawrence Thorpe**, 337th RCS; **Joshua Tidwell**, 20th LRS; **Joshua Tulloch**, 31st IS; **Donald Turner II**, 682nd ASOS; **Elizabeth Valentine**, 337th RCS; **Leslie Vanbelkum**, 9th IWF; **Paul Vatrano**, 20th MOS; **Keith Vershay**, 20th FW; **Brandy Walker**, 20th CES; **David Walker**, 20th EMS; **John Webb Jr.**, 20th CS; **Charles Weber**, 20th CMS; **Lisa Wells**, 20th LRS; **Jason Witaker**, 20th CS; **Edward White**, 31st IS; **Matthew White**, 609th COS; **Jeremy Whitworth**, 20th LRS; **William Wickham**, 20th EMS; **Dontrell Wiggins**, 337th RCS; **Daniel Wild**, 20th LRS; **Cleveland Williams**, 372nd Training Squadron; **Fredrick Wilson**, 20th AMXS; **Charles Wolfe**, Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps Southeast



Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day

The Team Shaw Top 3 Association is scheduled to host a Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day for all members with the rank of E-6 and

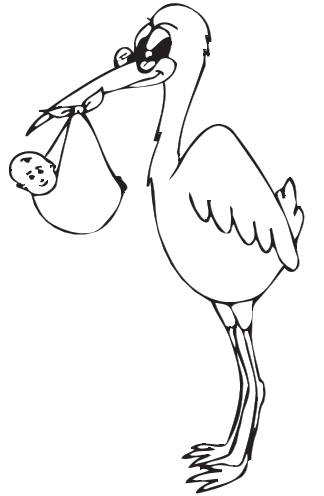
below and their families July 15 at 1 p.m. at Lake Wateree.

Transportation will be provided, if needed. Tickets are free and available through all Top 3 members and first sergeants. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Jerry Dire at **895-9035**.

Shaw's Stork Sortie

June 1 - Joseph Banaszek III to Brandy and Airman 1st Class Joseph Banaszek, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

To announce your child's birth, send the name, parents' names and date of birth to **spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil**.



Yeager Retirement

Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Yeager, 609th Air Communications Squadron, is retiring after 25 years of service. He and his family have been at Shaw three years.

The South Gate, Calif., native and his wife, Rhonda, have two children, Charles and Amanda. After retirement, Sgt. Yeager plans to move to Ohio.

"Senior Master Sgt. Yeager has been a great contributor to the 609th ACOMS, 20th Fighter Wing and the Sumter community. His dedicated commitment has made a difference in the field. We wish him the best in all his future pursuits," said Col. John Hayes, 609th ACOMS commander.

The retirement ceremony is scheduled for today at 1 p.m. in the Palmetto Chapel.

Long Retirement

Master Sgt. Joseph Long, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is retiring after more than 25 years of service. He and his family have been at Shaw four years.

The Hopewell, N.J., native and his wife, Becky, plan to stay in the local area after retirement. Sgt. Long plans to work in civil service.

"Sgt. Long's example has helped many Shaw Airmen achieve their best. We will miss him," said Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander.

The retirement ceremony is set for Monday at 3 p.m. in the vehicle maintenance bldg. at LRS.

Lombardo Retirement

Master Sgt. Carl Lombardo, 20th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is retiring after 22 years of service. He and his family have been at Shaw one year.

The McKeesport, Pa., native and his wife, Carla, have two daughters, Ariel and Christin. After retirement, Sgt. Lombardo plans to pursue job opportunities on the east coast.

"Sgt. Lombardo's teamwork and leadership have been a valuable asset to all of Team Shaw. He will be missed," said Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander.

The retirement ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 1 p.m. in the community center.

Volunteers fly 'greatest generation' to see memorial

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Thousands of visitors have come to the National World War II Memorial here since it opened last year. But the miles between the memorial and the ever-dwindling, increasingly frail ranks of World War II veterans make it difficult for many members of "The Greatest Generation" to make the pilgrimage to the nation's long-overdue tribute to their service.

"We're old, can't remember everything, and (are) about ready to die," said Alvin Ragland of Urbana, Ohio, who was able to see the memorial June 11 thanks to the honor flight program of the aero club at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "I'm a veteran of World War II and I'm 85 years old, and I never had anybody treat me any nicer than the honor flight. It's the best thing that ever happened to me."

Mr. Ragland was among 14 World War II veterans and one Vietnam War veteran who were flown aboard eight small, light airplanes from Ohio's Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport to Manassas (Va.) Regional Airport and driven to the memorial on the Washington Mall in a stretch Hummer to see the memorial that is dedicated to honor their sacrifices.

Honor flight was conceived by retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse, a physician assistant, to honor veterans he has taken care of the past 27 years. All of the pilots and co-pilots donated their time, and the veterans were flown free of charge.

Captain Morse said he thought of flying disadvantaged World War II veterans from Ohio to Washington because they could not afford to pay for the trip. Therefore, he said, they would never see the memorial that honors their sacrifices unless they were flown to Washington free of charge.

"I was growing tired of watching my World War II veterans die without ever seeing their memorial," he said.

"We did the first flight on May 21 this year with 12 World War II veterans aboard seven aircraft," he said. "Today we're flying out 14 World War II veterans and one Vietnam veteran, who is my father."

Captain Morse said the flights are financed solely by individual donations.

"We don't have any government or corporate sponsorship," he said. "Probably the biggest donors are the people you see out here today, which are our pilots. The pilots are renting these aircraft, paying for the entire aircraft rental fee, which ranges between \$400 and \$750 per day to fly World War II veterans out here."

The veterans were flown to Manassas aboard Piper Archer, Arrow, Aztec, Cessna 401, Cessna 201 and Mooney Ovation aircraft.

After visiting the memorial, the veterans were taken to the Smithsonian to see a display called "the Price of Freedom," which is geared toward World War II veterans. They are dying at a rate of about 1,020 per day, Captain Morse said.



Photo by Rudi Williams

Retired Col. Bob Manning (right) assists World War II veteran Elwood Lannon, 84, during a visit to the National World War II Memorial in Washington Saturday.

Wingmen step up, save NCO from suicide

By Airman Stefanie Torres
388th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah -- Time was passing into the next day, and he was destroyed ... just completely gone.

His thoughts lingered on the details.

“Do I want an open or closed casket? Where should I shoot?”

He cocked the gun several times as he lay in bed ready to make his last move.

“Who would care?”

March 23 was the last time Tech. Sgt. Kevin Hainsel planned to see daylight. This would be the last time he would see the early sun peaking through the bottom of his window pane trying to light up the room through heavy blinds shading him from the outside.

“I already made my decision,” Sgt. Hainsel said.

He held the .380 caliber handgun in his left hand and a faded memory in the form of a picture of his wife in the other.

“I could no longer feel ... yet my eyes welled up and tears continued to stream down my face,” he said.

He could no longer see, but the images in his head were so clear that the breath was stolen from his chest at every thought, he said.

“So much torture; so much agony; the world would be better without me,” he said.

He wanted to stop the memories.

“I took my last drive to reason with myself, but the trip was only a procrastination of my fate. I even spoke to my mother and said my last goodbye,” he said.

The lamp on his nightstand lit up the paper enough to write his last words to family and friends explaining how sorry he was that he was going to end his existence.

“I also wrote to my 15-year-old son who wanted nothing to do with me. I gave him advice for his future endeavors without me,” Sgt. Hainsel said.

The night faded away and work loomed around the corner.

“I didn’t want to go to work. I made my decision about my last day. Why would I get up and keep facing

the demolished world and wasted day I called my life? Why? I need to end this now,” said Sgt. Hainsel.

Maybe through routine, he finally rose out of bed and left for work.

He believes now that he wanted the pain to go away.

He was late for work -- unusual behavior for him, and a fact noticed by his supervisors.

“I had to buy doughnuts for my shop because it was a tradition to bring them in if you were late,” he said.

One of his supervisors asked if everything was OK. At first, he denied any problems.

“Then they called me into their office and asked me once more,” he said. “Then it all came to a head, and the walls of my inner strength were cracked. Everything I had bottled up inside for so long came spilling out -- raw and painful.

“I broke down,” he said.

He confessed all the emotional torture raging through his soul. He talked about the heartbreak of his wife leaving, the painful estrangement from his son, the anguish of his father’s recent death and the agony of learning his mother had bone cancer.

“They could not believe all the suffering I was going through,” Sgt. Hainsel said. “They just assumed everything was great because I never mentioned anything about having problems.

“But that day was the day my life was back,” he said. “My supervisors stepped into both roles of being supervisors and friends. They didn’t have to care.

“They saved me,” he said.

With help from his supervisors, Sgt. Hainsel was enrolled into a clinic where he received professional counseling to learn to cope with the pressures in his life that led to the suicidal thoughts.

Today, the 388th Equipment Maintenance Squadron munitions system specialist, lives to tell his experience and continues to try and help others who might understand the familiarity of his story.

Sgt. Hainsel’s thoughts of suicide started two months before his “last day.”

“My father just died, my mother was diagnosed with cancer, and she was on the verge of passing away,” he

said. “My first wife and I didn’t communicate, and my son didn’t want to hear from me. And, I had found out my second wife was cheating on me.

“My world was shattering right in front of me, and I felt like I had no control,” he said. “The house of cards just fell. The most obvious choice seemed to be suicide.”

But suicide should not be the option, said Chaplain (Capt.) Robin Stephenson-Bratcher, a chaplain here.

“Attempting suicide is not a disease; it’s a state of mind,” she said. “My one piece of advice would be to get help. You are not in this alone. Airmen are struggling by themselves, but there’s no reason to feel that way.”

Sgt. Hainsel talked about reaching the low point in his life followed by an epiphany in the hospital.

“It just came to me that death was permanent, and I can pull through this,” he said. “I’m not alone after all. Listening to and talking about the many stories of others is a realization that bad things do happen to people.

There is no cure for sadness. It’s about identifying triggers that make you feel a certain way. It’s also realizing that everything is not your fault and that tends to be a hard concept to grasp.

“I believe now that I didn’t want to die or I would be dead today,” he said.

Even after pulling through his life-terminating thoughts, he explained how depression can return. He equated depression with alcoholism. People are more susceptible to fall in that key state after going through it before, he said.

“People need to come in before suicidal thoughts even come in to play,” Chaplain Stephenson-Bratcher said. “We are here to help. There is nothing stopping (you) from receiving the care you need when you are in that state of mind. It doesn’t affect your military record, and it doesn’t follow you through your career.

“The people at the life skills center, family advocacy, any chaplain and medical professionals are there for you,” she said. “Supervisors and first sergeants can send you down the right path for help.”

“I live with the motto that every day above ground is a good day,” Sgt. Hainsel said. “I tell that to everyone. Nobody can prove me wrong.”